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SCHIP Expansion: the Latest Democrat Effort to Expand Washington's Control over American Families

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), Chairman of the Republican Study Committee, issued the following statement after House Democrats ignored veto threats to consider a bill that has no chance of becoming law, will raise taxes, and thrust a bureaucratized, government-mandated health care upon American families:

“Make no mistake about it; this bill is a government-run, socialized medicine wolf masquerading in the sheepskin of children’s healthcare. This is only the first battle in this Congress over who will control healthcare in America. Will it be parents, families, and doctors? Or will it be Washington bureaucrats?”

“Democrats now want to turn over your family’s healthcare to the same federal government that can’t get you a passport, that can’t keep illegal immigrants from crossing our border, and could not competently render aid after Hurricane Katrina. Sadly, the Democrat leadership knows they could get overwhelming bipartisan support if they were to reauthorize SCHIP in its current form, but they refuse to do it. The Democratic party is once again increasing Washington’s control over your lives.

“The Democrat party wants a program that will insure adults and families that make up to \$82,000 per year by taxing the working poor through a massive tobacco tax that primarily falls on families with less than \$30,000 in income. They are going to tax the working poor to give subsidies to those making up to \$82,000 a year.

“This bill will take away family chosen health care plans from over 2 million families and force them into a government run plan instead. Every American child deserves access to quality, affordable, accessible healthcare. They deserve the kind of healthcare that we in Congress and our children enjoy, but that’s not what they are receiving here.

“Instead, in a matter of years, when mothers in American have sick children, they will wait weeks and months to see an over-burdened doctor chosen by a Washington bureaucrat that may or may not do anything to help their children. That’s not the way it ought to be in America, and I believe we can do better.”

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Congressman Jeb Hensarling is Chairman of the Republican Study Committee (RSC).